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Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1948

ATHERSTONE :
E. S. COLMAN, "News" Office, Long Street.
1949.

A faint, large watermark of a classical building with four columns and a triangular pediment occupies the center of the page.

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor C. GISBOURNE

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor W. BAILEY

Councillors:

Mrs. B. V. Griffiths, Miss M. A. Trye, Rev. Bracebridge L. Hall,
W. Allbrighton, N. W. Blower, J. Boulstridge, E. W. Fox, W. Goode,
A. Morris, H. Land, P. J. Luby, J. Smith, W. A. Masters,
A. Spencer, C. S. Ward.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part-time):

MARK BRADFORD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

S. B. ACTON, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk/Pupil in Health Department:

P. WARD (Armed Forces, April, 1948).

CARL F. KEMPER (App. June, 1948).

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION OF THE DISTRICT

The Rural District of Atherstone lies practically in the centre of England in the northern part of the County of Warwickshire. High ground rises to the west forming a lovely range of hills, in places about 500 feet in height.

The busy trunk road known as Watling Street (A5) passes through the town of Atherstone and the middle of the rural district, as also does the main London-Crewe railway line.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. At the beginning of Norman times Atherstone appears to have been well established, and was entered in the Domesday Book as Aderstone.

Social Conditions and Occupations

The interests of Atherstone have always been industrial, commercial and agricultural. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works and other minor industries. Splendid opportunities exist for the introduction of new as well as the extension of some of the industries.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Atherstone.

To the Chairman and Members of the Atherstone Rural
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a matter of historical interest the year is outstanding for the commencement of the National Health Service on July 5th.

We compare well with the rest of the country from the point of view of our low death rate which is 9.5 per thousand of population compared with 10.8 per thousand for the whole of England and Wales, and 10.7 per thousand for 148 smaller towns.

The birth rate for the year is 19.3 per thousand of population compared with 17.9 per thousand for England and Wales.

The death rate from infectious diseases is now low. The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis is still high but the Tuberculosis death rate is falling.

The Ambulance service continues to maintain a high standard. It can still further be improved by having a call station at Atherstone twenty-four hours of the day. At present the Atherstone Ambulance Station only operates by day, for evening and night calls we are dependent on Nuneaton. Our population makes a first-class ambulance service essential.

The Administration of the Voluntary Nursing Association is to be taken over by the County Council. Up to now district nursing has been done better in some parts of the Atherstone Rural District than in others. A re-organisation of the services is intended which I hope will improve matters.

Our disinfection service up to now has been maintained with apparatus at the Isolation Hospital at Grendon. The Hospital has now been taken over by the Regional Hospital Board, together with apparatus, etc. We shall now have to acquire other premises and apparatus in order to maintain our disinfection service, unless the Regional Hospital Board will allow us to use the apparatus at the Grendon Hospital.

The Housing situation is not improving. We are allowed by the Ministry of Health, to build about 120 permanent houses per year, and against this there are between 200 and 250 marriages in the district each year, and our birth rate is double the death rate. There are many people who have been married for some years who have been unable to get a home of their own, and there are some 550 families living in unfit houses which it is not possible or economical to improve. They can only be maintained in their present unsatisfactory condition.

Coal miners in the Atherstone area have, up to recently, been considered free from "Dust disease of the lungs." We know now that there are cases of this disease. They occur in men who have worked a number of years underground in a thick atmosphere of coal and stone dust.

The increase in the number of houses and possibility of starting new factories in our area means that we require more and more clean water supplies. This matter is being attended to, and the necessary steps for an increase in supply are being considered by our Council in conjunction with neighbouring Authorities.

The nursing of chronic cases in the home, especially the elderly patients, remains a problem. It is hoped to solve this problem by making use of Home Helps, etc., but up to now there is no satisfactory practical scheme in operation. So far as our area is concerned I believe that all urgent cases have been admitted to hospital in good time.

*Signed, MARK BRADFORD,
Medical Officer of Health.*

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area in aeres | 21,897 |
| Population, census, 1921 | 20,982 |
| Population, census, 1931 | 21,869 |
| Intercensal increase in population | 887 |
| Population 1948 (mid-year estimate) | 23,370 |
| Number of inhabited houses, 1948 | 6,109 |
| Density of population, i.e., number of persons per aere, 1948 | 1.07 |
| Rateable value of District | £97,562. |
| Sum represented by penny rate | £374. |
| Excess of males over females | 5.31 |

Parish Population, 1931 Census—

| <i>Parish</i> | | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------------------|------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Ansley | 1059 | 1012 | 2071 | |
| Atherstone | 3085 | 3160 | 6245 | |
| Baddesley Ensor | 843 | 760 | 1603 | |
| Baxterley | 215 | 193 | 408 | |
| Bentley | 139 | 118 | 257 | |
| Caldecote | 84 | 49 | 133 | |
| Grendon | 644 | 612 | 1256 | |
| Hartshill | 1292 | 1250 | 2542 | |
| Mancetter | 353 | 349 | 702 | |
| Merevale | 42 | 60 | 102 | |
| Oldbury | 37 | 47 | 84 | |
| Polesworth | 3407 | 3059 | 6466 | |
| | | | | 21,869 |

VITAL STATISTICS--

| | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Live Births | 243 | 209 | 452 | |
| Legitimate | 230 | 201 | 431 | |
| Illegitimate | 13 | 8 | 21 | |
| Birth-rate | | | 19.3 | |
| Still-births | 5 | 6 | 11 | |
| Rate per 1000 births | | | 24.3 | |
| Deaths | 128 | 94 | 222 | |
| Death-rate | | | 9.5 | |
| Infant deaths | 6 | 7 | 13 | |
| Legitimate | 5 | 6 | 11 | |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 1 | 2 | |
| Infant mortality rate | | | 28.76 | |
| Legitimate | | | 25.52 | |
| Illegitimate | | | 95.24 | |

No. of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth—

| | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|---|
| From sepsis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 |
| From other causes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | | | | 0 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | .. | | | | 0 |

BIRTHS

The number of births registered in the Rural District was 452. 243 of the children were males and 209 females.

The number of illegitimate births registered was 21.

A proportion of the mothers seek admission to neighbouring hospitals for their confinement.

The birth-rate for the year is 19.3 per 1,000 of the population and is thus higher than for the whole of England and Wales (17.9 per 1000). In 148 smaller towns of comparable populations the birth rate was 19.2 per 1000. Our birth rate is the lowest recorded since 1943.

DEATHS

The number of deaths registered during the year was 222, giving a death rate of 9.5 per 1000 of the population. The death rate for the whole of England and Wales was 10.8 per 1000 and for the 148 smaller towns 10.7 per 1000.

The diseases which have been especially active in adding to the number of deaths are—

| | | 1948 | 1947 |
|---|----|------|------|
| Diseases of the heart and blood-vessels | | 75 | 64 |
| All forms of tuberculosis | .. | 11 | 9 |
| Cancer | .. | 27 | 40 |
| Cerebral haemorrhage | .. | 37 | 20 |
| Pneumonia | .. | 9 | 24 |
| Death due to violence or suicide | .. | 18 | 10 |

NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR OF 1948

| | <i>Causes of Death</i> | | <i>Male</i> | <i>Female</i> |
|---|------------------------------------|----|-------------|---------------|
| 1 | Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | .. | .. | 0 |
| 2 | Cerebro-spinal fever | .. | .. | 0 |
| 3 | Scarlet Fever | .. | .. | 0 |
| 4 | Whooping cough | .. | .. | 0 |
| 5 | Diphtheria | .. | .. | 0 |
| 6 | Tuberculosis of respiratory system | .. | .. | 2 |
| 7 | Other forms of tuberculosis | .. | .. | 0 |
| 8 | Syphilitic diseases | .. | .. | 0 |
| 9 | Influenza | .. | .. | 0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|----|----|----|-----|----|
| 10 | Measles | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Ac. inf. encephalitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 0 |
| 13 | Cancer of buc. cav. and œsophagus (M); uterus (F) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 |
| 14 | Cancer of stomach and duodenum | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 |
| 15 | Cancer of breast | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 4 |
| 16 | Cancer of all other sites | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 5 |
| 17 | Diabetes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 1 |
| 18 | Intra-cranial vascular lesions | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 | 18 |
| 19 | Heart diseases | .. | .. | .. | .. | 33 | 32 |
| 20 | Other diseases of circulatory system | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 5 |
| 21 | Bronchitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 0 |
| 22 | Pneumonia | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 3 |
| 23 | Other respiratory diseases | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 1 |
| 24 | Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 0 |
| 25 | Diarrhoea under 2 years | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 0 |
| 26 | Appendicitis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 1 |
| 27 | Other digestive diseases | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 2 |
| 28 | Nephritis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 3 |
| 29 | Puerperal sepsis | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 0 |
| 30 | Other maternal causes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 1 |
| 31 | Premature birth | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 4 |
| 32 | Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant. dis. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 2 |
| 33 | Suicide | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 0 |
| 34 | Road traffic accidents | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 1 |
| 35 | Other violent causes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 1 |
| 36 | All other causes | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 4 |
| | | | | | | 128 | 94 |
| | | | | | | 222 | |

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY
IN AHERSTONE, 1943 to 1948.

| Year | .. | .. | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 |
|--|----|----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Registrar General's estimate of population | .. | .. | 21,940 | 21,810 | 21,670 | 22,310 | 22,510 | 23,370 |
| No. of Births | .. | .. | 424 | 464 | 460 | 487 | 466 | 452 |
| Birth Rate | .. | .. | 19.3 | 21.2 | 21.2 | 21.8 | 20.7 | 19.3 |
| No. of Deaths | .. | .. | 213 | 239 | 210 | 241 | 229 | 222 |
| Gross Death Rate | .. | .. | 9.7 | 10.9 | 9.7 | 10.8 | 10.2 | 9.5 |
| Infantile Mortality per 1000 | .. | .. | 49.5 | 40.9 | 45.7 | 47.2 | 38.6 | 28.8 |
| Birth Rate (Average 5 yrs.) | | | | | | 20.84 | | |
| Death Rate (Average 5 yrs.) | | | | | | 10.26 | | |
| Infantile Mortality (Average 5 yrs.) | .. | .. | | | | 44.38 | | |

INQUESTS

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| No. of sudden deaths reported to Coroner | .. | .. | 26 |
| No. of Inquests | .. | .. | 16 |
| No. of Post-Mortem examinations | .. | .. | 4 |

Certified cause of death—

| | | | Male | Female | Total |
|----|--------------------------------|----|------|--------|-------|
| a. | Natural causes | .. | .. | 7 | 6 |
| b. | Misadventure | .. | .. | 1 | 0 |
| c. | Suicide whilst of unsound mind | .. | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| d. | Found drowned | .. | .. | 0 | 0 |
| e. | Accidental | .. | .. | 6 | 1 |
| | | | — | — | — |
| | | | 19 | 7 | 26 |

INFANT WELFARE

There are centres at Hartshill, Atherstone, Dordon and Polesworth. Each centre is managed by a Committee of ladies who give their services and time to the work. The County Health Visitor and local Maternity Nurses are present. A medical man attends every other week.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1948.

| | | | Male | Female | Total |
|-----------------------|----|----|------|--------|-------|
| Scarlet Fever | .. | .. | .. | 30 | 17 |
| Diphtheria | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | .. | .. | .. | 26 | 15 |
| Erysipelas | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 |
| Whooping Cough | .. | .. | .. | 47 | 37 |
| Measles | .. | .. | .. | 54 | 60 |
| | | | — | — | — |
| | | | 160 | 133 | 293 |

Three cases of Scarlet Fever, and one case of Diphtheria were treated in the Coventry Isolation Hospital, up to the coming into force of the National Health Service Act. For these cases the Council had financial responsibility.

Since July 5th, 1948, the National Health Service Act has placed the onus for treatment on the Ministry of Health. Our cases of infectious diseases are still treated in the Coventry Isolation Hospital.

There were no deaths from Zymotic Diseases in the year.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

| Year Ending Dec. 31st, 1948 | MALES | | FEMALES | | TOTAL |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | Pul- mon- ary | Non- Pul- mon- ary | Pul- mon- ary | Non- Pul- mon- ary | |
| (a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year | 63 | 18 | 34 | 17 | 132 |
| (b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1930 for first time in year | 15 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 34 |
| (c) Number of cases restored to Register | — | — | — | — | — |
| (d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by formal notification | 2 | — | 1 | — | 3 |
| (e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year | 18 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 33 |
| (f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st Dec. | 62 | 14 | 41 | 19 | 136 |

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Atherstone.
September, 1949.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my seventh Annual Report on my part of the work of the Health Department.

A great amount of routine work has been carried out in having nuisances and general defects at properties remedied.

Extension of the refuse collection and disposal service, during the year, to our five most rural Parishes has been an important Public Health measure which was welcomed by those living in the Parishes.

The erection of new houses will have to receive considerable impetus if we are within the next few years, to be in a position to deal on any scale with our 567 (Housing Survey, 1947, figure) unfit houses. Some 600 families and couples living in the district have not, as yet, a home of their own. In addition, marriage and birth rates, with very few houses becoming void, does not improve the position.

I wish to record my thanks particularly to Mr. Margoschis, your Additional Sanitary Inspector; the Clerk/Pupil in the Department, and in conclusion, expression my appreciation of the assistance and consideration I have received from the Public Health Committee.

Commending this report to your notice,

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

SYDNEY B. ACTON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL INSPECTION

The general inspection of the various premises within the district for the discovery of conditions causing or likely to cause nuisance has been carried out. The total number of inspections and re-visits made is 5,070, and the number of defects and nuisances for which notices were given, is 1,374.

The following list gives some of the principal nuisances and defects which have been dealt with.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|-----|---|
| General Defects on property .. | .. | .. | 877 | . |
| Defective closet accommodation | .. | .. | 89 | |
| Defective and blocked drains .. | .. | .. | 64 | |
| Rats and Mice Destruction Act | .. | .. | 85 | |
| Nuisances from keeping animals | .. | .. | 4 | |
| Offensive accumulations .. | .. | .. | 7 | |
| Conditions at farms and dairies | .. | .. | 4 | |

313 houses were found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation. 258 of these were rendered fit, 55 being transferred to 1949 records.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SUPPLY

There are 166 farms and cowkeepers in the district. Of these, 119 produce milk for sale, and the following are the numbers of persons registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :—

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|-----|--|
| Producers in the district .. | .. | .. | 119 | |
| Producers outside the district | .. | .. | 4 | |
| Retail Purveyors .. | .. | .. | 50 | |

During the year visits of inspection and to works in progress numbered 206. Animals, milk utensils and vessels, in addition to the premises were generally kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

28 of the producers in the district are Accredited Milk producers and 20 are Tuberculin Tested producers.

Structural alterations, repairs and improvements carried out to farms and dairies in the District are indicated in the following list.

Farm No. 1 :—

Dairy reconstructed.

Farm No. 2 :—

New cowshed for 12 cows built.

Farm No. 3 :—

New drainage system and sewage purification system provided.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, carry out tests for keeping quality twice monthly, from all producers.

HOUSING

The Rural Housing Survey, which was completed in June, 1947, shewed that of 5,051 houses of £16 and under rateable value, 1,906 (37%) were fit in all respects. Of these, 708 houses were owned by the Council. 1,351 (26.8%) were suffering minor defects. 1,277 (24.3%) were in need of extensive repair, structural alteration or improvement and 567 (11.2%) were classified to be demolished.

During the year action was taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of four houses which could not be made fit at reasonable expense. Demolition orders were made in each case.

Pursuing the requirement of the Council, that all houses shall have separate sanitary accommodation and water laid in, further action was taken in that direction. Since the Rural Housing Survey was completed, water has been laid into 98 houses, and 64 houses have been provided with separate sanitary accommodation.

The Survey revealed that 552 of houses in Categories 2 and 3 had not water laid in. The reduction of these by more than one-sixth, whilst improving the lot of many, still leaves much to be attained. In the case of joint water closet accommodation, which is a most undesirable feature, the reduction to 430 of the 1947 figure of 494, is at least progressive.

SELECTION OF TENANTS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

By 1939 the Council had erected 708 houses; none were built during the War-years, neither was the number affected by War damage. At the 31st March, 1949, the Council had completed a further 364 houses and another 111 were approved or under construction at that date.

Selection of tenants, carried out by the Tenants Selection Committee, is not based on a "points" system, but rather, and much more fairly to my mind, the Committee selects those applicants who are in greatest need of accommodation. Immediately prior to a Selection Meeting the whole of the files of applicants are doubly looked through. Those applicants who have a chance of being immediately allocated a house are then visited and their housing circumstances and all relevant details recorded. The resulting information placed before the Committee forms a generally sound foundation for decisions. The number of cases on the short-list before the Committee is usually about three times the number of houses to be let on that occasion. "Open" tuberculosis is our only reason for priority housing of applicants.

The list of applicants for Council houses, notwithstanding that it is continually being brought up-to-date by the removal of "dead" applications, is not being reduced by the present rate at which houses are being built. Dr. Bradford has referred to this in his introduction to his Report, and I would confirm his observations.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

The work of house refuse collection is carried out by direct labour in the Parishes of Ansley, Baxterley, Bentley, Caldecote, Dordon, Mancetter, Merevale, Oldbury and Polesworth.

In the Parishes of Atherstone, Baddesley Ensor, Grendon and Hartshill, house refuse removal is done by Contractors. The Council provide and maintain the vehicle used by the Atherstone Contractor. Our other Contractor provides his own vehicle.

Refuse collections had not been carried out in our more rural parishes until this year. In April we commenced collecting refuse in Merevale Parish; in the following month Caldecote Parish and in August the Parishes of Baxterley, Bentley and Oldbury were taken into the direct labour service. The Parish of Mancetter was taken over from the Contractor at the end of May, 1948.

Of vehicles we have three S.D. Freighters, one 1946 and two 1948, and a 1943 Karrier Bantam. A further S.D. Freighter is on order and should be delivered December, 1949, when the Karrier Bantam will be disposed of.

The District being largely urbanised and including coal mining as the principal industry, the composition of house refuse varies very considerably. From the Parishes of Polesworth and Dordon 10 cu. yd. vehicle test weighings average 3 tons 2 cwts. These being the heaviest Parishes.

A weekly collection was maintained throughout the District during the year, and the service has given good satisfaction judging from the few complaints received.

The following table shews the numbers of houses cleared of refuse, pails, privy-middens and dry pits emptied, the number of loads of ashes used for covering purposes and the number of loads taken to the tips by the direct labour collection service.

| Houses Cleared | Pails | Privies | Ashpits | Covering Ashes | Total Loads |
|----------------|-------|---------|---------|----------------|-------------|
| 91,665 | 7,260 | 34 | 5 | 150 | 1,517 |

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL

The Council have tips in the Parishes of Ansley, Baddesley Ensor, Dordon and Warton. Refuse is taken to these from the surrounding areas. The Dordon Tip is the principal one, taking refuse from some 17,000 population. The Hartshill Contractor has his own tip in that Parish. The Ansley tip is making up low lying wooded land; The Warton tip is in a disused quarry, whilst at Baddesley Ensor refuse is layered on a portion of common land.

The Dordon tip has continued to be free from crickets since 1946, when it was liberally treated with insecticides. Throughout the summer of 1948, Gammexane Dust was applied to all uncovered surfaces at the close of each day. We have been fortunate in obtaining soil for covering refuse from the Watling Street improvements which are being carried out by the County Council. The Dordon tip has been kept, in consequence, in good order, and no complaints have been received in spite of the close proximity of many dwelling houses. Grassing down further improved the appearance of the Dordon Tip.

SALVAGE

Further efforts were made to increase the salvage collections. Waste paper, scrap metal, textiles, bones and bottles and jars were collected and sold.

In 1947 salvage sales income amounted to £599 0s. 7d., and in this year 1948, £1,054 12s. 6d.

A power press for baling recovered waste was purchased in the year and the output of this machine made the increase in collections possible.

FACTORIES

There are 116 factories on the registers. Of these 28 are bakehouses.

The premises are visited at intervals as shewn by the table below.

There are 67 outworkers employed by hat manufacturers in the district.

The following table shews the numbers of inspections made, defects found, remedied, etc.

| Details | Inspections | Written Notices | Prosecutions |
|---|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| (i) Factories where Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by L.A. | 12 | | |
| (ii) Factories where Sec. 7 only enforced by L.A. | 104 | | |
| | | Defects found | Defects Remedied |
| Unsatisfactory means fire escape | | 2 | 2 |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | | 10 | 10 |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | | | |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | | | |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | | | |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | | | |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | |
| (a) insufficient | | | |
| (b) unsuitable or defective | | 6 | 5 |
| (c) not separate for sexes | | | |

The sanitary condition of factories has been well maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

During the year as many as possible of the many pigs slaughtered for private consumption were inspected and the incidence of disease was found to be very slight.

The Government Abbatoir at Nuneaton deals with all animals to be used as butchers meat in this district and the carcases and offals are inspected there before despatch. They are dealt with, on arrival here, by the butchers, in a satisfactory manner and in compliance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

In all, 111 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture, preparation or sale of preserved foods, etc., and the number of each type of premise registered is as follows :—

| | |
|---|----|
| Fried Fish and Chip Shops | 28 |
| Bakehouses | 28 |
| Preparation of Cooked Meats, etc. | 29 |
| Sale and or manufacture of Ice Cream | 26 |
| | — |

111

All the premises were visited from time to time during the year, 480 visits being made in all, and it was found that generally speaking all are maintained in a satisfactory state of cleanliness, this including utensils and personnel. Improvements have been made at one bakehouse and one new fish-and-chip shop has been opened. The latter entailed the conversion of part of an existing building, and the addition of a new preparation room. One new café was also opened, disused premises being renovated and adapted to provide suitable café accommodation, with kitchen at the rear.

The articles of food which were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption at the various food shops etc., are given in the following table. The food was destroyed except when it was at all possible to salvage it.

| Number | Details | Cwts. | Qrs. | Ibs. |
|------------------------------|---|-------|------|------|
| 773 | Eggs | | 3 | 12½ |
| 3 | Dried eggs | | | 1 |
| 515 | Tins of Meat, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables etc. (blown, holed, etc.) .. . | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| 8 | *Tins of Meat, Milk, Fruit, Vegetables etc. (unsaleable condition) .. | | | 9½ |
| — | *Tea | | 2 | 4 |
| 1 | Meat pastes | | | 4 |
| | *Potatoes | 8 | 2 | |
| | Dried fruit | | 1 | 12 |
| | Pickles | | | ½ |
| 1 | Jams | | | 5½ |
| | Cake, puddings, etc. | | | 1 |
| | Cheese | | | 5 |
| | Cereals (contaminated, mites, etc.) | | 2 | 6 |
| | Sausage (decomposition) .. . | | 1 | 2 |
| | Bacon and Ham (decomposition) .. | | 2 | 14 |
| | Butchers meat | 2 | 0 | 12½ |
| Items marked * were salvaged | | 18 | 3 | 11¾ |

ICE CREAM

26 premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream ; of these 16 only store the ice cream prior to re-sale, it being produced outside the district. The remaining 10 vendors manufacture their own product on the premises, and generally the standard of cleanliness and product is satisfactory and compares very favourably with that which is brought into the district from elsewhere.

A total of 43 samples were taken during the year, chiefly during the summer months. 25 of the samples were taken from Producer-Retailers in the district, the remaining 18 being samples of ice cream brought into the district and include two samples of Heat Treated Ice Cream Powder ready for re-constitution to Ice-Cream. The Samples are graded according to the result of the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, Grade 1 being the best and Grade 4 the worst quality bacteriologically. Of the 43 samples taken, 32.5% were grade 1; 9.3% grade 2; 20.8% grade 3 and 37.4% grade 4.

TABLE "A". PRODUCED IN THE DISTRICT

| Sample No. | Retailers No. | Type of Mix | Methy. Blue Grade | Colonies per Cm. | B. Coli present in |
|------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1-48 | 21 | Heated Treated | 1 | 800 | Absent |
| 9-48 | 21 | Heat Treated | 4 | 496,800 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 11-48 | 8 | Heat Treated | 4 | 6,180,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 34-48 | 8 | Heat Treated | 4 | 12,600 | Absent |
| 10-48 | 8 | Heat Treated | 3 | 124,200 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 5-48 | 1 | Complete Cold Mix | 2 | 10,800 | Absent |
| 16-48 | 1 | Complete Cold Mix | 4 | 324,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 6-48 | 11 | Complete Cold Mix | 1 | 13,000 | Absent |
| 19-48 | 11 | Complete Cold Mix | 1 | 10,800 | Absent |
| 30-48 | 11 | Complete Cold Mix | 4 | 432,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 37-48 | 11 | Complete Cold Mix | 1 | 4,800 | Absent |
| 7-48 | 12 | Heat Treated | 1 | 2,400 | Absent |
| 15-48 | 12 | Heat Treated | 1 | 27,000 | Absent |
| 8-48 | 10 | Complete Cold Mix | 3 | 24,200 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 18-48 | 10 | Complete Cold Mix | 1 | 4,200 | Absent |
| 10-48 | 20 | Heat Treated | 4 | 108,000 | 1/10 c.c. |
| 13-48 | 20 | Heat Treated | 3 | 378,000 | 1/10 c.c. |
| 20-48 | 15 | Heat Treated | 1 | 3,000 | Absent |
| 25-48 | 15 | Heat Treated | 4 | 1,188,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 31-48 | 15 | Heat Treated | 4 | 2,592,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 38-48 | 15 | Heat Treated | 4 | 378,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 41-48 | 15 | Heat Treated | 1 | 37,800 | Absent |
| 23-48 | 19 | Complete Cold Mix | 4 | 64,800 | Absent |
| 26-48 | 19 | Complete Cold Mix | 3 | 226,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 29-48 | 19 | Complete Cold Mix | 3 | 768,000 | 1/100 c.c. |

The percentage of samples falling into grades 1 and 2 is slightly higher in the case of ice cream manufactured in the district than that from outside (44% against 38.8%) and the difference is more noticeable when grade 1 results only are considered (40% manufactured in the district against 22.2% from outside).

Table A gives the results of samples taken from Producer-Retailers in the district, while Table B gives the results of those taken from ice cream brought into the district. Both tables give results of Methylene Blue, Colony Count and B. Coli tests and Table A gives, in addition, the type of Ice Cream Mix.

TABLE "B". PRODUCED OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT

| Sample No. | Retailer's No. | Methy. Blue Grade | Colony Count | B. Coli present in |
|------------|--|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 2 48 | Sold from Producers' motor van | 1 | 42,000 | Absent |
| 32 48 | Sold from Producers' motor van | 4 | 4,752,000 | 1/10 c.c. |
| 43 48 | Sold from Producers' motor van | 1 | 18,000 | Absent |
| 3 48 | Sold from Producers' m/tricycle | 4 | 810,000 | 1 c.c. |
| 12 48 | 8 | 4 | 138,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 17 48 | 8 | 2 | 54,000 | Absent |
| 11 48 | 24 | 3 | 54,000 | Absent |
| 14 48 | 24 | 4 | 1,134,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 22 48 | 24 | 3 | 32,000 | Absent |
| 27 48 | 24 | 4 | 1,836,000 | 1/10 c.c. |
| 33 48 | 24 | 3 | 135,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 42 48 | 24 | 4 | 1,080,000 | 1/10 c.c. |
| 21 48 | 16 | 2 | 21,600 | Absent |
| 24 48 | 25 | 4 | 6,048,000 | 1/100 c.c. |
| 35 48 | 25 | 2 | 75,000 | 1 c.c. |
| 39 48 | 25 | 1 | 1,800 | Absent |
| 28 48 | Heat Treated Powders for Complete Cold Mix | 3 | 360,000 | 1 c.c. |
| 36 48 | | 1 | 4,800 | Absent |

When a sample of ice cream which was manufactured outside the district is found to be unsatisfactory a copy of the Public Analysts' report is forwarded to the Local Authority concerned for appropriate action to be taken.

WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of one parish of some 34 properties, the whole of the district is served by Council main water from three deep wells and boreholes, and from one of the local colliery companies. The water is pumped to a series of service reservoirs from which it gravitates.

The Council main water was sampled several times during the year, and the Public Analyst's Reports were that the chemical and bacterio-

logical results shewed the water to be of good quality and suitable for use as a public supply.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

All houses where infectious diseases were notified were disinfected and the bedding, clothing, etc., passed through the steam disinfecter.

The homes of infectious tuberculous persons are similarly treated when a patient dies or is removed to sanatorium or changes address.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylactic measures in houses where infectious disease exists is carried on from six premises in various parts of the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two premises in the district where the business of rag and bone dealing is carried on.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There is a Bye-law in force, made under the Public Health Act, 1936, specifying that the emission of black smoke from a chimney of any building, other than a private house, for more than two minutes in any period of thirty minutes, shall be deemed to be a statutory nuisance and a smoke nuisance.

Apart from casual observation of factory chimneys, thirteen period observations of three offending factory chimneys were taken in the year. The following table shews the observation results in the order in which they occurred and the result of the consequent action taken to reduce the black smoke emission.

| | Observation Number | Minutes | | | Observation Duration |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| | | Black | Moderate | None or Slight | |
| First Factory | 1 | 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 60 |
| | 2 | 10 | 7 | 13 | 60 |
| | 3 | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 10 | 44 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 60 |
| | 4 | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 48 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 60 |
| | 5 | 5 | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 47 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 60 |
| Second Factory | 1 | 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ | 28 | 60 |
| | 2 | 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 2 | 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 30 |
| | 3 | 1 | 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ | 56 | 60 |
| | 4 | | 2 | 58 | 60 |
| | 5 | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 53 | 60 |
| Third Factory | 1 | - | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 30 |
| | 2 | 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 10 | 44 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 60 |
| | 3 | - | 5 | 55 | 60 |

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

There is one full-time Rodent Operative employed and the Ministry of Food methods are carried out by him.

During the year sixty premises were treated by the Rodent Operative, apart from those he followed up which were done by occupiers who would not avail themselves of the service.

Of Council properties 10 treatments were given at Sewage Works ; 4 at tips and 5 at other Council properties. 19 business premises and 22 private dwellings were dealt with. From these premises the Rodent Operative collected 587 bodies of rats and 69 bodies of mice. Poisoned and gassed rats often die in inaccessible places and an estimate of total kill runs between 2,350 and 2,500 rats.

In November, 1948 the Council decided to offer free treatment for rat infested domestic premises, whilst shops and business premises should continue to pay the cost of rat destruction in accordance with the Acts and Orders. The free treatment of dwellings led to easier acceptance of the service by occupiers and consequently better results.

The sewers throughout the district were given two treatments. The first was completed in January, 1948, when 511 manholes were found in the foul systems, 455 of which were baited on consecutive days. 121 manholes shewed pre-bait takes, only five being complete takes on one or both days. 56 manholes were not suitable for baiting owing to flooding or lack of benching. Poison takes were not noted.

On the second treatment carried out in July and August, 430 manholes were baited of which 112 shewed pre-bait takes and again only five shewed complete takes.

On both occasions sausage rusk was used as the bait base and 5% zinc phosphide was the poison. Poison takes not being noted, no estimate of rats killed can be arrived at. Sewer treatments always result in a period of fewer notifications of surface infestations being received.

WORKS DONE AND NUISANCES ABATED AT PREMISES (OTHER THAN FARMS AND DAIRIES) DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

HOUSING

EXTERNAL

Walls—

| | |
|--|----|
| Taken down and re-built | 4 |
| Raked and re-pointed or rendered | 44 |
| Door sills repaired or new fixed | 3 |
| Horizontal damp-proof courses inserted | — |
| Vertical damp proofing of walls | 4 |
| Open areas constructed | — |
| Sub-floor ventilation provided or increased | — |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Roofs— | | | | | | |
| Stripped and re-slated or re-tiled | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Repaired and made weather-proof | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 69 |
| Torched | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Skylights repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Gutterings— | | | | | | |
| Repaired and/or new provided and fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 49 |
| Downspouts— | | | | | | |
| Repaired and/or new provided and fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 44 |
| Chimney Stacks— | | | | | | |
| Wholly or in part taken down and re-built | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 |
| Raked and re-pointed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| Pots provided and fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Yards, Courts and Passages | | | | | | |
| Taken up and re-laid or concreted | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 34 |
| Water Supply | | | | | | |
| Laid on into bourses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 42 |
| Standpipes removed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| Wells dis-used | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| New pumps provided to wells or repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Wells cleansed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Wells repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Hot systems provided and fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| "Furred-up" service replaced | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Bursts repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 81 |
| Drainage | | | | | | |
| New lengths drain and/or drainage systems provided | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| Defective drains re-laid | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| New inspection chambers constructed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 |
| Septic tanks repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Defective inspection chamber covers replaced | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Connections to sewer | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Cesspools repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| New cesspools constructed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Ventilation shafts repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| Cesspools cleansed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| New gullies provided | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Obstructed drains released | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 |
| Septic tanks and percolating beds built | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Closet Accommodation— | | | | | | |
| Conversions to W.C.s | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8 |
| New W.C. compartments built | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11 |
| New W.C. pedestals fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18 |
| W.C. cisterns repaired and/or new provided | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
| Miscellaneous repairs to closet compartments | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Privies converted to pails | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| New pail closets built | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| New Pails provided | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Washing Accommodation— | | | | | | |
| New wash-houses built | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Dilapidated coppers repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| New furnace pans fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Copper flues repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Water laid to wash-houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Floors concreted | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Ashes Accommodation— | | | | | | |
| New ash bins provided | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 315 |
| Ashpits put into dis-use | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Outbuildings— | | | | | | |
| Repaired.. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 |
| Fuel Stores— | | | | | | |
| New constructed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Repaired.. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 |
| INTERNAL | | | | | | |
| Walls— | | | | | | |
| Totally or in part re-plastered | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 83 |
| Ceilings— | | | | | | |
| Totally or in part re-plastered | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 61 |
| Windows— | | | | | | |
| Defective frames repaired or replaced | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 45 |
| Windows re-corded | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 30 |
| Doors— | | | | | | |
| Repaired, replaced and/or weather boards fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27 |
| Floors— | | | | | | |
| Boarded floors replaced and/or repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26 |
| Defective skirtings replaced | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Quarry floors re-laid | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 14 |
| New concrete floors laid | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Staircases— | | | | | | |
| Woodwork repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Handrails provided and fixed or repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Fire Ranges and Grates— | | | | | | |
| Repaired and/or new fixed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 55 |
| Sinks— | | | | | | |
| New sinks provided and fixed.. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 44 |
| New wastes fitted or existing repaired | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Sinks re-set | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Sculleries— | | | | | | | | |
| New constructed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Pantries— | | | | | | | | |
| Improved | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| New provided | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | — |
| Smoke Abatement | | | | | | | | |
| Smoke nuisances remedied | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

MISCELLANEOUS

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Premises rat-proofed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |
| Rat infested premises cleared | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 60 |
| Offensive accumulations removed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7 |
| Keeping of animals nuisances abated | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Food Preparing Premises— | | | | | | | | |
| New making-up places built | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |
| Cleansed and improved | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
| River pollution prevented | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| New sanitary accommodation at factories | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Fire escape facilities at factories | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Water courses cleaned out | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| Other nuisances abated | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9 |
| Soft water tanks replaced | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 |

I am Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SYDNEY B. ACTON,

Sanitary Inspector.

